

BENNINGTON FIRE DOES DAMAGE OF \$100,000

Garage, Hotel and Laundry Totally Destroyed by Blaze Lasting Many Hours.

Bennington, Dec. 21.—Loss exceeding \$100,000 resulted yesterday morning from a fire which started in the machine shop of the Bennington Garage, owned by E. W. Williams, shortly after 12 o'clock Friday night.

The principal pieces of property destroyed were the brick building of the garage, including the repair shop and 19 automobiles, the Cottage hotel; Bennington Sanitary Laundry, including all machinery; the Craven building on North street, the lower part of which had just been leased by Ralph F. Niles, local Ford agent. The First National Bank was saved by its iron shutters.

The fire started, without doubt, from an overheated coal stove, or flue of the same, on the lower floor of the garage. The blaze had a big start when discovered and an alarm rung in by Policeman Patrick Brazell at 12.25.

Hotel Is Destroyed.
The fire quickly spread to the Bennington Sanitary laundry, owned by J. H. Powers and the rear laundry building and machinery are a total loss. The thin sheet iron covering on the laundry proved no protection whatever.

The Cottage Hotel is a total loss. While the firemen were busy in saving the line of buildings on North street the fire crept across through the two-story shed to the hotel and worked its way all through the building. The front is still standing but the fire there was not completely extinguished until 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

The First National Bank building had a narrow escape but was saved by its iron shutters. Even when the east wall of the hotel fell against the bank the shutters kept the fire out of the building, though there was some damage.

The Winslow & Craven building on North street was completely gutted. The lower floor of the building was recently occupied by John T. Carroll, but had just been rented by Ralph F. Niles, Ford dealer, who moved in a few days ago. Mr. Niles's stock is considerably damaged by water and ice.

MORE PAY FOR TEACHERS

Fifty Per Cent Increase Recommended By Directors

Burlington, Dec. 18.—It was the general sentiment of the 350 school directors and superintendents from all over Vermont assembled in Burlington today that Vermont school teachers should have a raise in salaries to meet the high cost of living prevalent during the last year, but just how much of a raise was a question upon which there was much difference of opinion, especially between the larger towns and cities of the state on the one hand, the rural communities on the other. After failing to put through a resolution to the effect that the minimum salary of a Vermont teacher in rural districts and graded schools ought to be \$800, and that minimum salaries in high schools throughout the state ought to be \$1000, the conference finally compromised on a resolution submitted by Commissioner M. B. Hillegas which provided that there should be a general increase in the salaries of teachers in the state of at least 50 per cent of salaries as they existed in 1916 before the United States entered the war.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Older Boys of Vermont Meet in Northfield, January 23-25, 1920

The Eighth Annual Conference of the older boys of Vermont will be held at Northfield, January 23-25 next. It will begin with the supper session on Friday evening. Saturday will be filled with addresses, group conferences, a visit to Norwich University, and an attractive evening program. On Sunday morning the conference speakers will give addresses in the local churches. In the afternoon there will be a conference session, and the closing meeting will be held Sunday evening.

The people of Northfield kindly offer free entertainment in their homes to registered delegates, who must be boys between 15 and 21 years of age, or the leaders of delegation groups. Delegates are invited from all churches, Sunday schools, young people's societies, Y. M. C. A.'s, colleges, high and preparatory schools, Boy Scouts, clubs, and similar organizations, but they should be boys who earnestly purpose to have their lives count for

the best things, and who would be interested in a conference of this kind. Its main purpose is to give inspiration and instruction in service by boys, for boys.

The conferences of the past years have been attended by over 2,600 of the strong, virile, older boys, as well as by pastors, teachers, scoutmasters, and leaders who are interested in the best welfare of the boys of Vermont. Many of the boys have been doing splendid service in their home organizations because of the help received at those conferences.

The speakers will include some of the best men in America who are working with boys, among them being Albert E. Roberts, dean of the county department of the International Committee; G. W. Hinckley, founder of Good Will Farms for boys; Scoutmaster H. B. Rankin; Jared Van Wagenen, Jr., N. Y., department of agriculture; Lt. Col. H. R. Roberts; and several others to be announced later.

Full information about the conference may be obtained from ministers, school men, scoutmasters, or from Byron N. Clark, Burlington, Vermont.

SHORT COURSES IN AGRICULTURE WELL FILLED

Attract Men and Women From all Parts of the State

The series of short courses in Agriculture and Dairying being given at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College are attracting wide attention as evidenced by inquiries and applications from people in adjoining states as well as from all sections of Vermont. Two courses in dairying are already over, one in testing dairy products and another in buttermaking and creamery management. A third in cheesemaking is now going on in which the students are being taught by actual practice to make many varieties of cheese, such as American or Cheddar, Cottage, Whey cheese, Neufchatel, Cream, Pimento, Sage, etc. All of these courses were well filled, in fact the laboratory space is overtaxed to accommodate all of the students.

Although a number of applications have been received for Course IV, in general agriculture to be given from December 30th to February 14th, a few more men and women may be accommodated in this course if applications are made promptly. It is, however, quite possible that there will be more applicants than can be accepted so those who wish to attend and have not yet filed their applications should do so at once as applications are accepted in the order in which they are received.

This course includes such subjects as soils, field crops, fertilizers, farm management, dairying, feeding, stock breeding and judging, weeds, seeds, poultry, animal and plant diseases, farm mechanics, the woodlot, horticulture, etc. Tuition is free to Vermonters. Applications and requests for information should be addressed to Prof. H. B. Ellenberger, Morrill Hall, Burlington, Vermont.

THE NEW THRIFT ARMY

Nearly 1,000,000 New England Women Have Joined the Ranks

St. Albans, Dec. 20.—The old high cost of living which today seems to be pounding along with steam roller force despite the heralded opposition will soon bring up against a stone wall here in New England when one million women, members of the newly organized thrift army, will start an intensive fight to reduce high prices in this district.

Although the ranks of this thrift army have practically been filled, new volunteers are being added daily. The work of mobilizing this army is being done by the state directors of the various women's organizations under the supervision of Mrs. Myra B. Lord of the Savings Division, First Federal Reserve District.

Mrs. Lord, who has just completed a tour of the various states, says she feels assured that the majority of women in New England now realize that one of the best ways to reduce the present high cost of living is to practice thrift.

Mrs. Herbert J. Gurney, former president of women's clubs in Massachusetts, is handling the work in that state; Mrs. Caesar Misch of Providence, in Rhode Island; Miss Gertrude Breitzke of Hartford, in Connecticut; Mrs. D. C. Jones of Waterbury, in Vermont; Mrs. Mary Wood in New Hampshire; and Mrs. William C. Eaton of Portland, in Maine.

Salmon Prolife.
A salmon has been known to produce 10,000,000 eggs.

PROBABILITY OF NO NORMAL SCHOOL

Institutions at Johnson and Castleton Must be Closed in August, and Legislature Failed to Make Appropriation for Authorized Central School.

According to M. B. Hillegas, State Superintendent of Education, there is more than a possibility that Vermont will be without a normal school next year, unless something turns up that will alter the situation. The schools at Johnson and Castleton must be closed in August, in the opinion of the attorney-general, and no other place for a school has been selected. While the Legislature authorized the establishment of a central normal school, it provided no money to build or operate one, and no private donations seem forthcoming for such a cause.

There has been a falling off in the demand for normal school education of about 20 per cent this year, and there are at present only about 65 students in the normal schools. The reason for this is that the salaries of teachers are so low that there are no attractions to that profession. Pupils who attend schools can go right out into business and earn more than those who taught them. The last bulletin issued by the government shows a decrease in the number training to be teachers of about 15 to 20 per cent, and that is just about the rate in Vermont.

When asked regarding the disposition of the schools which are to be discontinued next August, Mr. Hillegas stated that while the State Board of Education had been at work on this proposition, there was absolutely nothing to report at this time. No plans have been made for the disposition of the buildings and no plans have been decided on as to what can be done for the training of teachers. Even the subject of the customary summer training schools has not been gone into with any result.

The central training school for teachers will be a difficult thing to finance unless some individuals give money, for, while the Carnegie Foundation gives money to educational institutions, it usually takes up institutions financed by individuals and not State institutions.

St. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

A Promising Institution of Vermont at Work on Building Campaign

Founded at Winooski in 1904, and incorporated by an act of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, dated January 28, 1913, empowering it to grant the usual college degrees, St. Michael's College and High School have thrived wonderfully, notwithstanding the difficulties that usually accompany a new institution of the kind.

At its birth the new college numbered 44 students and today it has reached almost 150. Its accommodating capacity is overtaxed, even with the acquisition of two spacious residences nearby which serve the purposes of dormitories for the college men. Relying on public generosity and good will, the Fathers of St. Edmund, who conduct the college, have now started a building fund for \$100,000 for a school building; \$1,750 having already been donated towards it. The Fathers are confident that the friends of education in the State and outside will not be indifferent to the development of one of the four colleges of the Green Mountain State.

CONCRETE ROADS REDUCE HIGH COST OF LIVING

The industrial development of our country has progressed so rapidly within the last few years that the cost of living now depends to a very large extent upon our ability to distribute food and supplies cheaply and quickly.

For several years the cost of transportation has been increasing while shipping facilities have not kept pace with increased production of the farm, factory and mine.

The construction of an extensive system of permanent roads will be a great benefit in reducing the cost of transportation and insuring the rapid delivery of food and manufactured products from producer to consumer.

Concrete roads link center of supply with center of population and the resulting low cost of delivery lowers the cost of food, coal or manufactured products to the consumer.

These roads make possible the transportation of a large tonnage of merchandise, by motor truck, to all parts of the country, 365 days in the year.

The farmer can market his crops in season and is not compelled to wait until the roads become passable in order to make deliveries direct to market or to the local railroad station,

as is the case when there are no permanent roads.

In order to reduce the cost of food it is necessary to provide a more plentiful supply of farm labor. Under present conditions large quantities of farm produce are wasted because there is not sufficient help on the farm to harvest the crops, pick the fruit and vegetables, etc.

Each year many farms are abandoned and their owners move to the cities. Farmers not only find it next to impossible to keep hired help but there is a constant tendency for their children to desert the farm for city life. This, of course, lessens the total production of farm products with the necessary increase in prices for the food that is raised.

One of the best ways to remedy this condition is to build permanent roads. These roads will enable the people in rural districts to secure quickly and easily all the manufactured products of the city necessary to make home life attractive in the country. Besides this, traveling is made a pleasure instead of a burden and people find it an easy matter to take up the many delightful social activities of our rural community centers, thus keeping boys and girls contented and preventing them from deserting the farm.

Besides this, good roads also attract productive, energetic citizens to the rural districts; they find pleasure and profit in farming and thus insure a steady production of food for the workers in cities. This steady supply of food, coal, etc., reaching the consumer daily, is made possible by roads which are always in good condition for traffic 365 days in the year. They enable lines of motor trucks to maintain regular schedules. This regular and prompt delivery results in stabilizing prices and this further decreases the cost to the consumer without affecting the cost to the producer.

In time of industrial upheaval the old channels of traffic feel the pressure first and their deliveries are very uncertain if they do not actually stop functioning altogether.

In such a crisis our large centers of population would face hardships and even famine. Prices would immediately soar to such a height that only a limited number of people would be able to secure any of the necessities of life. The vast majority of us would have to suffer.

It seems the part of wisdom to provide against possibilities of this nature by building now a system of permanent concrete roads which will assure us of a steady supply of the necessities of life at reduced stable prices, 365 days in the year, both in times of adverse industrial conditions and in times of prosperity.

A WORD TO DISABLED SOLDIERS

Every man who was in the military or naval service of the United States during the late war, and who on account of such service is not physically fitted to engage at once in a gainful occupation should at once notify the Bureau of War Risk Insurance in Washington, D. C.

Under the law this Bureau is charged with providing for service men discharged because of disability incurred in active service in the line of duty, compensation and free medical treatment until such time as they are restored to physical fitness. During the summer of 1918 there was a general coming out of the military training camps of the country in an effort to bring up the standard of physical fitness, and many men discharged at that time may be unaware of their rights under an act of Congress to compensation for disability and medical attention and hospital treatment where necessary. All cases of this or a like nature should be brought immediately to the attention of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

The return of a marriage license to the town clerk's office at Stamford, Conn., Saturday revealed that Col. Jacob Gray Estey of Brattleboro, son of Gen. Julius J. Estey and grandson of J. J. Estey, founder of the Estey Organ Company, was married at Stamford, Conn., December 10 to Mrs. Margaret L. Brason of Brookline, Mass., by Justice of the Peace Robert Fruin. The bride was Miss Margaret Lanigan, the daughter of Edward Lanigan of Brandon. While employed as waitress in Brattleboro, she married Herold Brason, a clerk in the office of the Estey Company. She was recently divorced from Brason. She is 30 years old. Colonel Estey, who gave his age as 48, obtained the title in the Vermont State guard, having commanded the First Infantry Regiment. His first wife was Miss Mattie Rowland Poor of Peabody, Mass. They were divorced in 1918. Two of their sons were in service during the war.

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Former Board of Directors Elected at Annual Meeting Held Thursday Afternoon.

Highways was the principal subject brought up for consideration at the annual meeting of the Bennington County Improvement Association held at the headquarters of the organization in the Hawks block, Bennington, Thursday afternoon.

It was voted that the officers proceed with the program that has already been begun with particular emphasis laid on the proposed plan to bring about an improvement on the section of highway between Bennington and North Bennington.

An initial move in this program is the calling of a meeting at the association office in the near future when it is hoped that State Highway Commissioner Stoddard B. Bates may be present to discuss the proposition. This proposal met with the hearty endorsement of the meeting.

The five directors constituting the present board were re-elected: A. B. Clark of Readsboro, F. C. Archibald of Manchester, A. J. Holden and P. T. H. Pierson of Bennington, and P. H. Thompson of Arlington.

The organization was completed with the election of the following officers: President, Guy B. Johnson; vice president, J. C. Colgate; treasurer, A. J. Holden; acting secretary, William H. Wills.

STATE FAIR COMMISSION MEETS

Deficit in Treasury Owing to the Bad Weather in September. Officers Chosen.

White River Junction, Dec. 19.—The annual meeting of the Vermont State Fair Commission was held in the office of the secretary today. The commissioners present were: J. B. Estee, Washington county; Prof. Thomas Bradlee, Chittenden county; H. Lee Hatch, Orange county; F. H. Bickford, commissioner-at-large; E. S. Brigham, commissioner of agriculture, member ex-officio; Fred L. Davis, secretary.

According to the report of the treasurer the receipts of the fair this year were \$1,607.84 less than the expenses incurred, which was not unexpected. The fair had but two half days of pleasant weather. It is surprising that the deficit was not much larger than shown. The gross receipts of the fair were \$33,781.68. The commissioners are well pleased at the result, believing that had the weather been fit the receipts would have been several thousand dollars greater. They pledged themselves to renewed efforts for the fair of 1920.

The secretary's report covers the exhibits and the work of each department. The report contains the following:

"Nearly all the departments of the fair were well filled, and the quality was of the best. The cattle exhibit contained 240 head, including 35 pairs of oxen and steers, which made a fine showing in that department. The draft department was a surprisingly good drawing card. There was very close competition in their classes and this feature was watched by large crowds until the finish. The dairy breeds showed excellent exhibits in all classes. The Ayrshires were the champions for numbers—over one hundred head of this class alone being exhibited. Excellent beef breeds of Shorthorns, Herefords and Polled Angus were shown. I believe that these breeds are gaining in popularity among our New England farmers.

"The Morgan Horse Club show of Morgans was the best ever I believe, all things considered. The success of the Morgan horse department should be credited to the secretary of the club, C. C. Stillman. To his acquaintance with the breeders of Morgans, and to his popularity among them, was largely due the splendid exhibition of this breed at the fair. In behalf of the State Fair Commission, I wish to express to Mr. Stillman our appreciation of the very generous specials offered by the members of the Morgan Horse Club.

"The boys' and girls' department was a new one of the State fair this year and it proved to be a great success. Much credit should be given to Professors Bradlee and Ingalls. I believe that this year's exhibit was just a stepping stone to a great exhibit of itself for the future years. With high wages and short hours in all our manufacturing plants and railroads, which have a tendency to take young people away from the farms, something has got to be done of this nature to get our young people interested in agriculture or we will soon have less farm help than we now have. We, as a

State fair, ought to encourage this new department more next year; in fact, our future depends upon these young people. Also, I believe this department is building success for the State fair. Once get them interested in the department, worked out by the fair, and they will always be fair boosters."

The following officers were elected for 1920:

President—J. B. Estee, Montpelier. Vice President—F. H. Bickford, Bradford.

Treasurer—Geo. E. Mann, Quechee. Secretary—Fred L. Davis, White River Junction.

H. L. Hatch was proposed for reelection to the office of vice president, but owing to ill health requested to have his name withdrawn. Mr. Hatch has been one of the most painstaking and interested members of the commission, and his action in regard to the vice presidency is regretted by every one of his associates.

Since the holding of the fair last September H. L. Baldwin, superintendent of races, and C. D. Williams, superintendent of the mid-way, have resigned.

It was voted to hold the 1920 fair at White River Junction on September 28, 29, 30 and October 1, with power voted to the executive committee to change these dates if it believes necessary.

Chester Pike, the well-known starter who has been in the starter's stand at every State fair, appeared before the meeting and outlined a plan whereby the trotting feature of the fair could be made more attractive with well-known horses in the events. It will not be surprising if the trotting schedule at the next State fair is the best ever presented.

The executive committee of the fair will meet in Burlington the week of the dairymen's convention, January 13, 14 and 15.

THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

By an act passed by the last legislature it is required that whenever a physician is called upon to attend any case of any disease dangerous to the public health, he is required to serve a quarantine notice upon the head of the family in accordance with the forms prescribed and furnished by the State Board of Health. He is also required to place on the house a placard bearing the name of the disease.

Whenever a case of communicable disease occurs in a family, and no physician is in attendance, the head of the family is required to report the facts to the district health officer in regard to the disease, which he suspects to be in his family. In this case, the district health officer will issue the quarantine notice.

Under the regulation of the State Board of Health, school teachers are required to report to the district health officer all cases of contagious disease occurring among their pupils which may come to their notice, or in families from which their pupils come.

The law provides a penalty of from ten to one hundred dollars for failure of physicians, parents or teachers to comply with this regulation.

The district health officer is also a federal government official, being connected with the United States Public Health Service, and desires to co-operate with the public in every way possible. Under this arrangement franked envelopes will be distributed to all physicians and teachers for the purpose of making reports to health officers, no postage being required for these reports.

It should be remembered that more deaths occur in Vermont every year from measles than from diphtheria and scarlet fever combined, and the same statement is true of whooping cough.

CANNOT EXTERMINATE EUROPEAN CORN BORER

Congress is Asked for \$500,000 to Keep it in Check

Washington, Dec. 21.—Extermination of the European corn borer is "probably out of the question," Secretary Houston today informed Congress, in asking an additional appropriation of \$500,000 for immediate use in an effort to prevent its further spread. Wide areas in New England and New York have been found to be infected and similar discoveries elsewhere are likely from surveys planned for next spring.

Investigations by the department of agriculture indicated that the corn borer was brought to this country in a shipment of broom corn from Hungary in 1908 which was widely distributed to factories through the middle west.